

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for coating a fabric comprising:

[[-]]forming a coating composition comprising an alkanolamide that is solid below 30°C, at least 40% water, and at least one of the following cleaning compounds: alkanolamides, an anionic surfactantssurfactant and an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymerscopolymer, which that are solid below 30°C.;
and

[[-]]applying said coating to one side of needle-punched fabric.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the coating composition further comprises dialkylammonium chlorides, waxes or imidazolinesa wax or an imidazoline.

3. (Currently Amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising an alkanolamide that is solid below 30°C, at least 40% water, and at least one of the following cleaning compounds: alkanolamides, an anionic surfactantssurfactant and an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymerscopolymer, which that are solid below 30°C.

4. (Currently Amended) The coating composition of claim 3 further comprising ~~dialkylammonium chlorides, waxes or imidazolines~~ a wax or an imidazoline.

5. (Currently Amended) An article for cleaning comprising:

~~[[-]] a needle-punched fabric substrate; [[and]]~~

an alkanolamide; and

an anionic surfactant;

wherein the alkanolamide and anionic surfactant are solid below 30°C and are present within the article from a depth of ½ the thickness of the substrate to the outside surface of the article.

~~a coating composition applied continuously onto the outside surface of said article, wherein said coating composition comprises at least one of alkanolamides, anionic surfactants, and ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymers which are solid below 30°C; and wherein said cleaning article has a dry hand.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The article ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein said ~~coating composition further comprises~~ comprising a ~~dialkylammonium chlorides, waxes or imidazolines~~ wax or an imidazoline.

7. (Currently Amended) The article ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein said article is a cloth, mitt, or glove.

8. (New) The article of claim 5 made by a process comprising:
continuously applying to a surface of the substrate a coating composition comprising the alkanolamide, anionic surfactant, and at least 40% water.

9. (New) An article for cleaning comprising:

a needle-punched fabric substrate;

an alkanolamide; and

a dialkylammonium chloride;

wherein the alkanolamide and dialkylammonium chloride are solid below 30°C and are present within the article from a depth of ½ the thickness of the substrate to the outside surface of the article.

10. (New) The article of claim 9 made by a process comprising:

continuously applying to a surface of the substrate a coating composition comprising the alkanolamide, dialkylammonium chloride, and at least 40% water.

11. (New) An article for cleaning comprising:

a needle-punched fabric substrate;

an alkanolamide; and

an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymer;

wherein the alkanolamide and ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymer are solid below 30°C and are present within the article from a depth of ½ the thickness of the substrate to the outside surface of the article.

12. (New) The article of claim 11 made by a process comprising:

continuously applying to a surface of the substrate a coating composition comprising the alkanolamide, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymer, and at least 40% water.

13. (New) The article of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein the article leaves a protective residue on a surface cleaned with the article.

14. (New) The article of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein the substrate has a basis weight ranging from 2.5 to 10 ounces per square yard.

15. (New) The article of claim 14, wherein the substrate has a basis weight ranging from 5 to 7 ounces per square yard.

16. (New) The article of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein the substrate has a thickness ranging from 40 to 150 mils.

17. (New) The article of claim 16, wherein the substrate has a thickness ranging from 60 to 80 mils.

18. (New) The article of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein the substrate comprises at least one of the group consisting of: acrylic, rayon, cotton, nylon, polypropylene, and polyester.

19. (New) The article of claim 5, 9, or 11, wherein the substrate comprises a material having a melting point above 140° C.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated September 23, 2004, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group I: Claims 1-4, drawn to the process of coating a fabric, classified in class 427 in various subclasses; and

Group II: Claims 5-7, drawn to an article for cleaning, classified in class 442, subclass 59+.

Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute Group II, claims 5-7, as amended, drawn to an article for cleaning.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement for at least the following reasons. In order for a Restriction Requirement to be proper under 35 U.S.C. § 121, two requirements must be met: 1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed, and; 2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner in examining the claims together. M.P.E.P. § 803 ("If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions.").

The Examiner's reason for her conclusion that the inventions are distinct does not pertain to the presently amended claims. Each of the independent article claims 5, 9, and 11, recites, *inter alia*, compounds that "are present within the article from a depth of ½ thickness of the substrate to the outside surface of the article." Thus, fibers in the fabric substrate may not be "coated prior to needle punching or formation of the fabric."

With respect to a serious burden, Applicant respectfully points out that such a burden did not exist in the parent case. Specifically, the Examiner has not provided an explanation in the Restriction Requirement why there would be a serious burden to

examine both groups together. Moreover, Applicant has amended claims 1-2 (process) and claims 3-4 (coating composition) to recite comparable combinations of compounds as in amended claims 5-7 and new claims 8-12, making the search for Group II even more closely applicable to Group I.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that claims 1-19 be examined.